

# Exploring current data sharing practices of the University of Minnesota faculty in 3 agricultural departments

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## Introduction

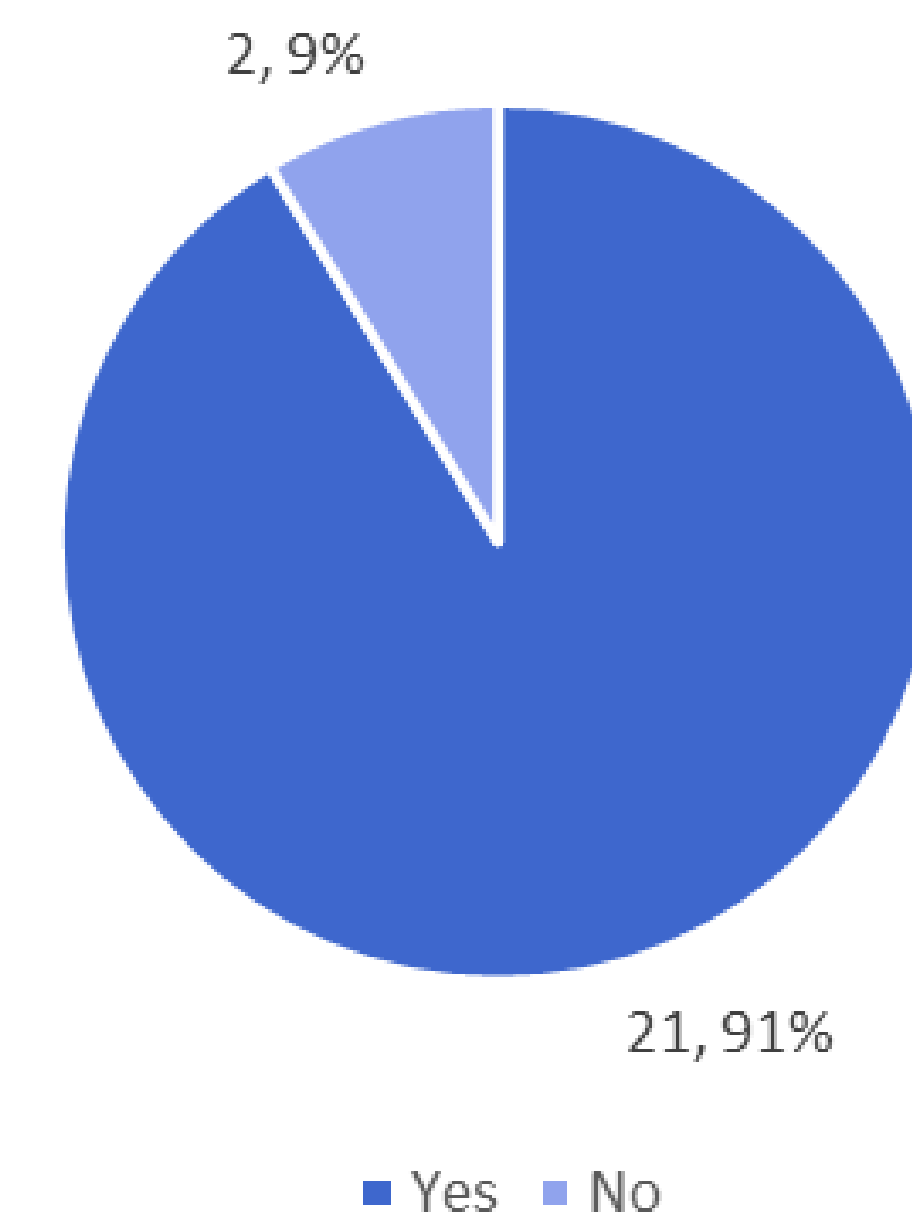
- Wished to learn more about data culture of liaison departments and library research
- Project proposed as part of application for the Institute for Research Design in Librarianship (IRDL)
- IMLS and Loyola Marymount University funded program to help librarians gain experience with conducting research
- “This Institute is designed to bring together a diverse group of academic and research librarians who are motivated and enthusiastic about conducting research but need additional training and/or other support to perform the steps successfully.” (Loyola Marymount University, 2018)

## Methods

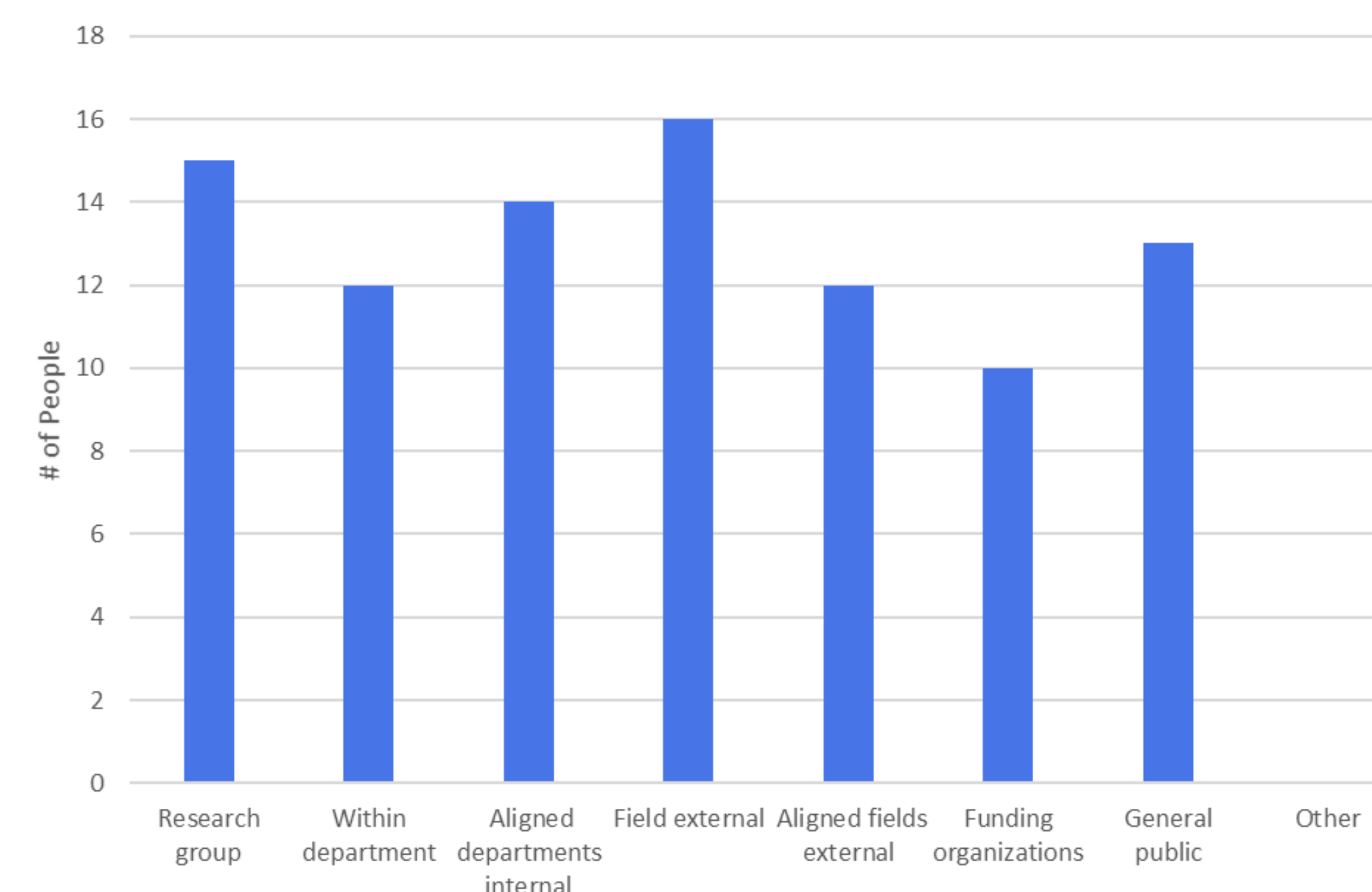
- Mixed method study – survey and in- person interviews
- Eligibility – Assistant, Associate, Full professors and Adjunct Professors of any rank in the departments of the Plant Sciences at the University of Minnesota (n = 90). Departments include:
  - Plant Pathology
  - Plant & Microbial Biology
  - Agronomy & Plant Genetics
- Qualtrics survey link delivered by email
  - Open from January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 to February 13<sup>th</sup> 2018
- Option to volunteer for interviews included in survey
- Directly contacted faculty via email to request additional interview participants

## Survey results

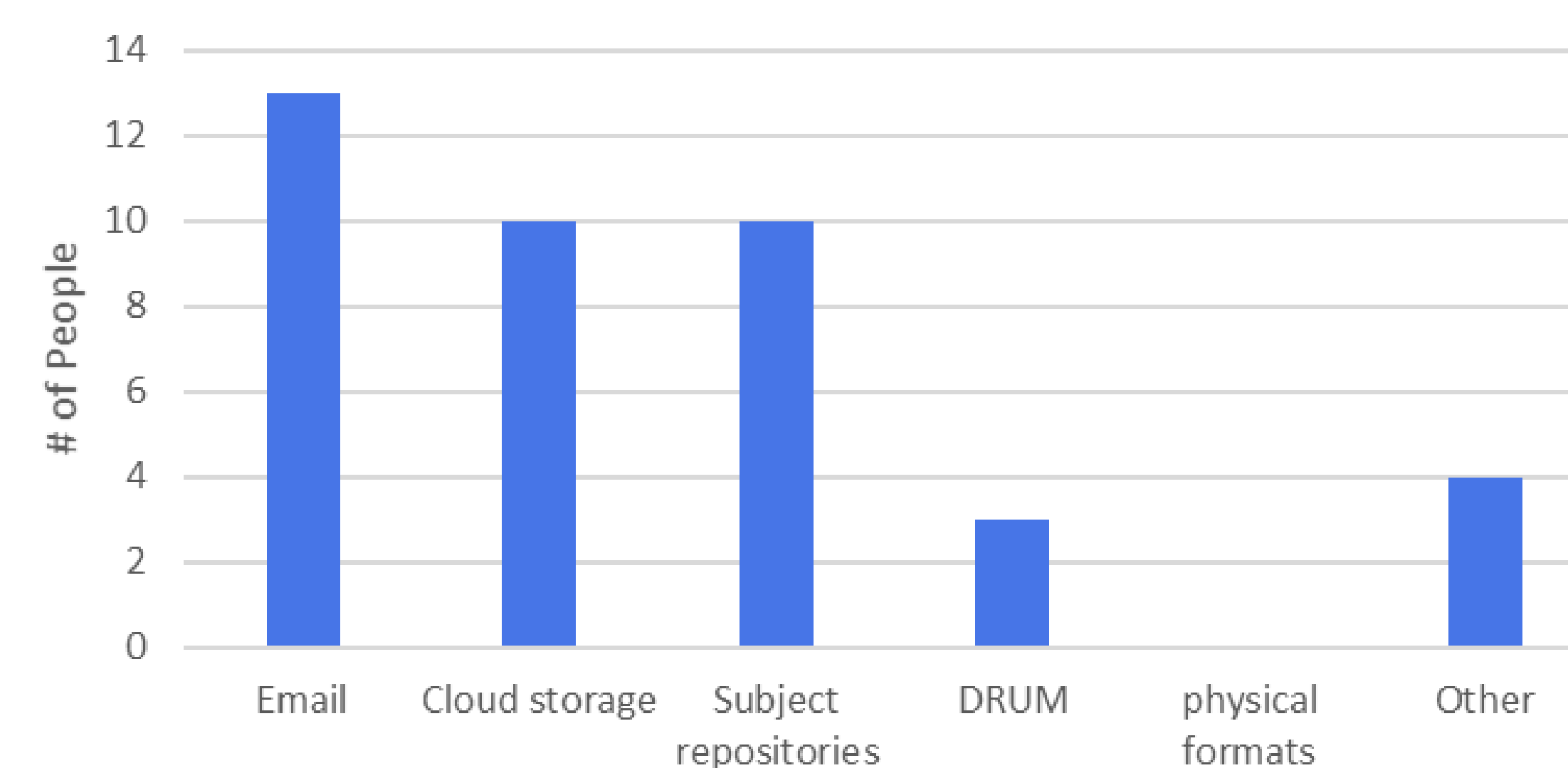
Do you share your research data?



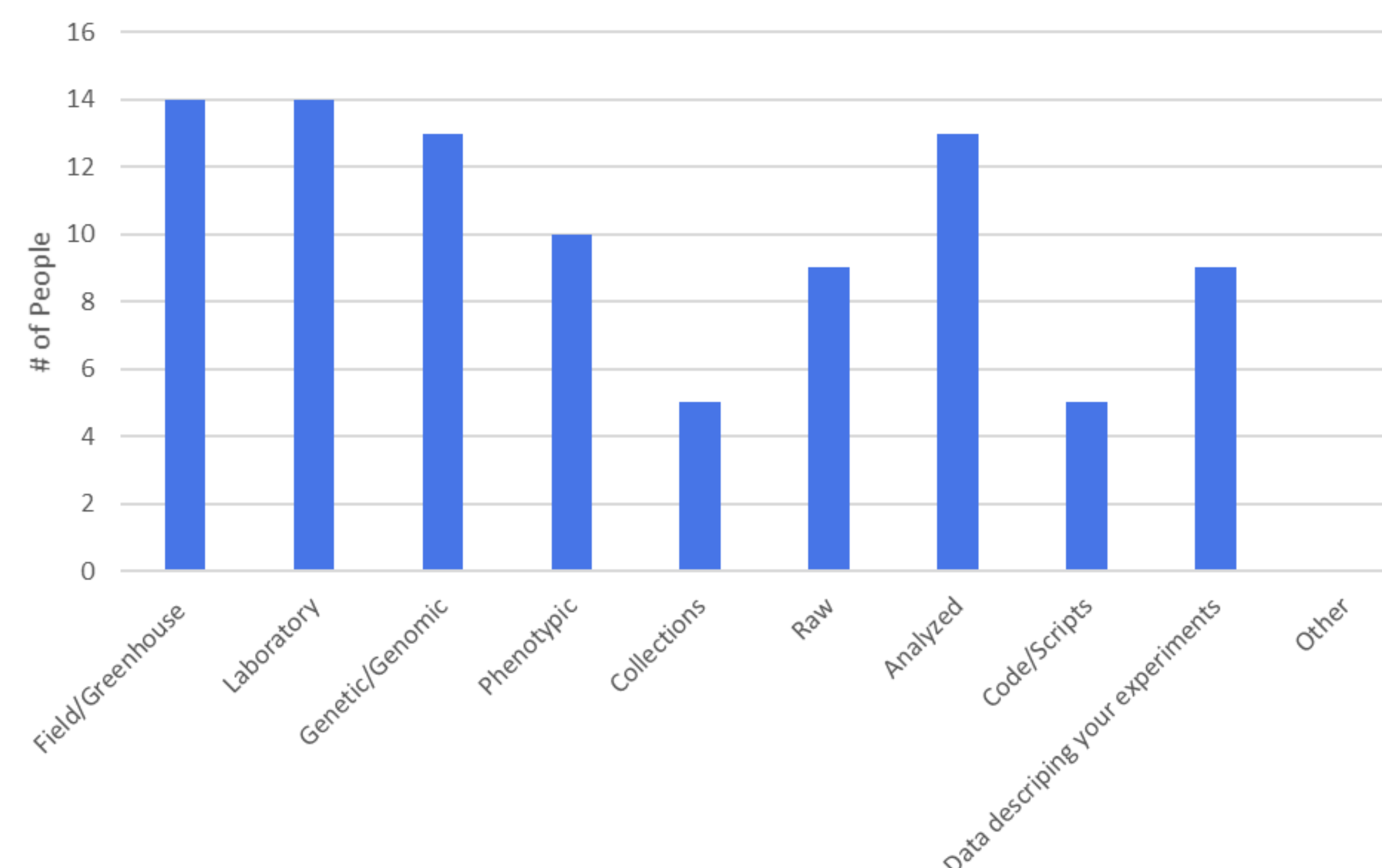
Who do you share your research data with?



What methods do you use to share your research data?



What types of data do you share?



Demographics of respondents indicating they share	
Faculty rank	
Assistant professor	4
Associate Professor	3
Full Professor	9
Adjunct (any rank)	3
Departmental affiliation	
Agronomy & Plant Genetics	5
Plant & Microbial Biology	4
Plant Pathology	10

Demographics of respondents indicating they do not share	
Faculty rank	
Full professor	1
Reasons for not sharing	
Amount of time required to prepare data for sharing	
Do not have the right to make the data public	
Sharing not required by journals	

## Interview progress

- Overall positive view on data sharing
  - “Data and knowledge have no value if it sits on a shelf somewhere”
  - “I’m very appreciative of data sharing as people have shared with me”
- Sample of types of data shared
  - Field data
  - Sequence data
  - Code/scripts
- Sample of common sharing methods
  - Subject repositories
  - Email
  - Cloud storage
- Sample of challenges and barriers to data sharing
  - Competition or being scooped
  - Movement and long term storage of large data
  - Proprietary/industry data that can't be shared
  - Sustainability of funding for subject repositories
  - Amount of time needed to prepare data for sharing
  - Differing philosophies about data sharing

## Next steps

- Complete in person interviews. Anticipated completion by end of May 2018
- Send out audio files for transcription. Code resulting transcriptions using NVivo
- Select journal for submission and submit article by end of 2018

## REFERENCES

1. Loyola Marymount University. (2018). *Institute for Research Design in Librarianship Institute Overview*. Retrieved from <http://irdlonline.org/call-for-proposals/institute-overview/>